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Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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----------023219 182347Z /66
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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1422
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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: SGEN, AORG, OCON, EAID
SUBJECT: PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE 1980 CONFERENCE OF THE DECADE FOR WOMEN

1. AUSTRALIAN MISSION HOSTED A MEETING TUESDAY, 5/16 OF THE 23 MEMBERS OF THE PREPCOM FOR THE 1980 WOMEN'S CONFERENCE IN ORDER TO DISCUSS PLANS FOR THE FIRST PREPCOM MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 19 TO 30 IN VIENNA.
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2. THE AUSTRALIAN MISSION TOOK THE INITIATIVE BECAUSE OF ITS OWN CONCERNS, SHARED BY MANY OTHER DELEGATIONS, THAT THE SECRETARIAT IS NOT MAKING ADEQUATE PREPARATION FOR THE PREPCOM AND IN ORDER TO GIVE DELEGATIONS A CHANCE TO EXCHANGE VIEWS AND PREPARE THEIR CAPITALS IN ADVANCE. IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE MEETING WILL BE HELD IN VIENNA, SOME MEMBER STATES WILL BE REPRESENTED BY DELEGATES WHO ARE NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE ISSUES.

3. DISCUSSIONS CENTERED ON THE CONFERENCE AGENDA, DOCUMENTATION, REGIONAL MEETINGS, ROLE OF NGOS, PUBLICITY AND APPOINTMENT OF A SYG. THE QUESTION OF APPOINTMENT OF A SYG AND THE ROLE OF THE NGOS APPEAR
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TO BE OF THE MOST IMMEDIATE CONCERN. THERE IS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT THE SYG SHOULD BE APPOINTED FROM OUTSIDE THE SECRETARIAT, OTHERWISE THE JOB WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE HANDED TO HELVI SIPILA. THERE IS AMPLE PRECEDENT FOR APPOINTMENT OF AN SYG FROM OUTSIDE THE SECRETARIAT, A CURRENT EXAMPLE BEING THE CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. THE DELEGATE OF IRAN FEELS

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STRONGLY THAT THE SYG SHOULD COME FROM OUTSIDE, AL-
THOUGH THEY HAVE NO CANDIDATE OF THEIR OWN. THE
ISSUE OF THE SYG WILL BE DISCUSSED FURTHER AT
A MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, 5/24.

4. QUESTION OF PARTICIPATION OF NGOS WAS DISCUSSED AT
SOME LENGTH ALTHOUGH THE RESULTS OF THE DEBATE WERE IN-
CONCLUSIVE. THE IRANIAN DELEGATE STATED THAT THEY DO
NOT HAVE ADEQUATE FACILITIES TO PROVIDE FOR AN NGO
TRIBUNE SO IT APPEARS THAT THIS OPTION MUST BE RULED
OUT. THE IRANIANS SUGGESTED THAT THE NGOS SHOULD BE
ENCOURAGED TO HAVE A MEETING OF THEIR OWN BEFORE THE
CONFERENCE AND SHOULD THEN REPORT THEIR FINDINGS TO
THE CONFERENCE ITSELF. WE SUGGESTED THAT THE NGOS
DO NOT APPEAR TO HAVE A COMMON POSITION ON THE TYPE OF
PARTICIPATION THAT THEY WOULD PREFERBUT THAT THERE
SHOULD BE PROVISION EITHER FOR A TRIBUNE OR FOR DIRECT
PARTICIPATION IN THE CONFERENCE. IN VIEW OF THE FACT
THAT THERE WOULD BE NO FACILITIES AVAILABLE FOR A
TRIBUNE, WE BELIEVE THAT DIRECT PARTICIPATION IS THE
ONLY ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVE. SOME DELEGATES SUGGESTED
THAT ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE MADE SIMILAR TO THOSE FOR
THE SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT IN WHICH NGOS ARE
ALLOWED TO ADDRESS COMMITTEES OR THAT ONE DAY BE SET
ASIDE FOR STATEMENTS BY NGOS IN THE PLENARY. THE
ROLE OF NGOS IN THE PREPCOM ITSELF WAS ALSO DISCUSSED
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AND THE AUSTRALIANS WILL INQUIRE OF THE SECRETARIAT
OF THE FACILITIES FOR PARTICIPATION OF NGOS AS WELL
AS SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND REGIONAL COMMISSIONS AT
THE PREPCOM.

5. REGIONAL MEETINGS. WE STATED THAT THE US PLACED
PRIORITY ON PREPARATIONS FOR THE 1979 REGIONAL MEET-
INGS. THE AUSTRALIAN DELEGATE REPORTED THAT THE
SECRETARIAT HAD ADVISED HIM THAT THEY WOULD BE UNABLE
TO PREPARE ANY DOCUMENTATION CONCERNING THESE MEETINGS
FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE PREPCOM. IN VIEW OF THESE
CIRCUMSTANCES WE SUGGEST THAT THE DEPT CONCENTRATE ON
THE ISSUE OF REGIONAL MEETINGS AND SUCH PROBLEMS AS
THE AGENDA FOR SUCH MEETINGS, PARTICIPATION OF OTHER
UN ORGANS AND AGENCIES, PARTICIPATION BY NGOS, BACK-
GROUND DOCUMENTATION, AND FINANCING. IT IS ARGUED
THAT THE ENTIRE COST OF THE CONFERENCE AND THE REGION-
AL MEETINGS SHOULD BE BORNE BY THE REGULAR BUDGET AS
IS THE CASE WITH THE CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNO-
LOGY. IF THE CURRENT RESOLUTIONS ON THE WORLD CON-
FERENCE DO NOT PROVIDE THE NECESSARY LEGISLATIVE
AUTHORITY FOR FINANCING OF THE REGIONAL MEETINGS, IT

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MAY BE NECESSARY TO TABLE AN APPROPRIATE RESOLUTION AT THIS YEAR'S GA.

6. WITH RESPECT TO ORGANIZATION OF THE CONFERENCE. THE IRANIAN DELEGATE STATED THAT THE AVAILABLE FACILITIES WILL PROVIDE FOR CONCURRENT MEETINGS OF A PLENARY AND TWO COMMITTEES. OUR SUGGESTION FOR CONFERENCE ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD BE MADE IN RELATION TO

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THESE LIMITATIONS. IN OUR VIEW WE SHOULD DEFINITELY AVOID ORGANIZING THE CONFERENCE AROUND THREE COMMITTEES DISCUSSING QUALITY, DEVELOPMENT, AND PEACE.

7. THE NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, 5/24 AND WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY DEPT COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS FOR TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED AT THAT SESSION.
LEONARD

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